

California-Geneva Connection Explained

Herald 2-26-84

As the Second World War ground on, Utah Republicans and Democrats wrangled with each other about who should get credit for getting a steel plant in Utah County. The truth is that Japan probably had more to do with it than anyone in Utah did.

U.S. Steel's Geneva plant is only half of an operation that stretches all the way from the mountains of Utah to California's Sacramento River Valley where steel shipped from Utah County is finished in Pittsburg, Calif., a town an hour west of San Francisco.

As war broke out, Republic Steel was operating an integrated steel plant at Pittsburg complete with blast furnaces to extract iron from ore, open hearths to fire iron to steel and rolling mills to produce finished steel products like plate, rope, pipe and sheets.

War necessitated dramatic expansion of the nation's entire steel-making capacity, and Pittsburg, Calif., was included. As plans to expand Pittsburg were initiated, fear grew of the possibility of an invasion of the West Coast by the same Japanese fleet that struck Pearl Harbor.

Various inland sites were studied and Utah Valley was chosen for the most basic part of steel making. Blast furnaces, coke ovens and open hearth furnaces were constructed along with a rolling mill to make plate steel, structures and steel coils.

Some of those products are ready for end use, in everything from battleships to stadiums, but about 40 percent of the Geneva's capacity is sent to Pittsburg for finishing into galvanized rolled steel, tin can steel, and dozens of other products.

Today we see long trains leaving Geneva with rusty looking coils of steel on them. They are bound for Pittsburg where they are unrolled, stretched, trimmed, plated, squashed, tempered or formed according to some customer's specifications.

U.S. Steel admits there have been times when having a plant separated by hundreds of miles has been a competitive pain in the checkbook, but that's not true at the moment.

California's stiff business taxes, coupled with tough environmental standards, is making it very difficult for heavy industry to make it. Utah's less serious pollution problems, a more favorable business climate and cooperative work force is making it easier for the Geneva-Pittsburg separated steel making complex to survive while other coastal steel mills have been closed.

The Pittsburg steel mill is housed in a series of adjoining buildings that are each about half a mile long. Underneath those rusting old roofs are a series of finishing operations that begin with a process to unroll the rusty rolls from Geneva and clean, compress, trim and oil and re-roll them ready for final finishing into rolled product.

A continuous convoy of trucks haul gleaming steel rolls that have been surfaced, hardened, rolled to gauge and trimmed to customer's specifications. A good share of the steel ends up in tin cans, but the busiest machines are turning out galvanized steel for pipe.

The company's galvanizing lines are booked up for months.

At Pittsburg, only 1,800 workers rattle around in a facility where nearly 4,000 once worked, but at the plant, there is a positive attitude about Pittsburg's future. Its managers realize they will have to make tough decisions about people and their product if they expect to compete, but the impression is they are determined to do so.



U.S. Steel Geneva Works located near Orem as seen from the air over Utah Lake.

The basic service charge at Utah Valley Hospital is \$31, even though its Emergency Center is the only one in Utah County able to treat all types of injuries and illnesses, 24 hours a day.

In fact, the UVH Emergency Center serve as back-up for other area emergency rooms in "code" cases: cardiac, respiratory, and neurological trauma. UVH is also the primary emergency referral center for the rest of central and southern Utah. All this is because Utah Valley Hospital is the only medical center south of Salt Lake City with operating room, laboratory, and other facilities for every medical specialty.

"To meet our responsibilities we train and continually update our staff in all kinds of treatment procedures and also maintain the most advanced equipment," says Lynne Watson, R.N., C.E.N., director of UVH Emergency Center. "Still, we try to keep costs down. While some emergency rooms charge a fixed overall fee regardless of the injury or illness, we are careful that the patient doesn't pay for anything he doesn't get. More severe cases subsequently cost more, but for most people this is a savings," claims Watson.

At UVH the doctor's fee varies according to diagnosis, and lab and x-ray charges are the same for hospital in-patients.

The UVH Emergency Center staff includes seven full-time physicians (with no private practices) registered nurses and technicians all certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (A.C.L.S.). But one third of the nurses are Certified Emergency Nurses (C.N.) through the Emergency Department Nurses Association (D.N.A.), a relatively new national organization. C.E.N. certification will soon be required of the Emergency nursing staff. "We're prepared for anything to welcome any patient," says Son. "If people really feel they need to come, they shouldn't hesitate. But if there is a question about whether or not it's a real emergency, they can and should see their private doctor first, if possible."

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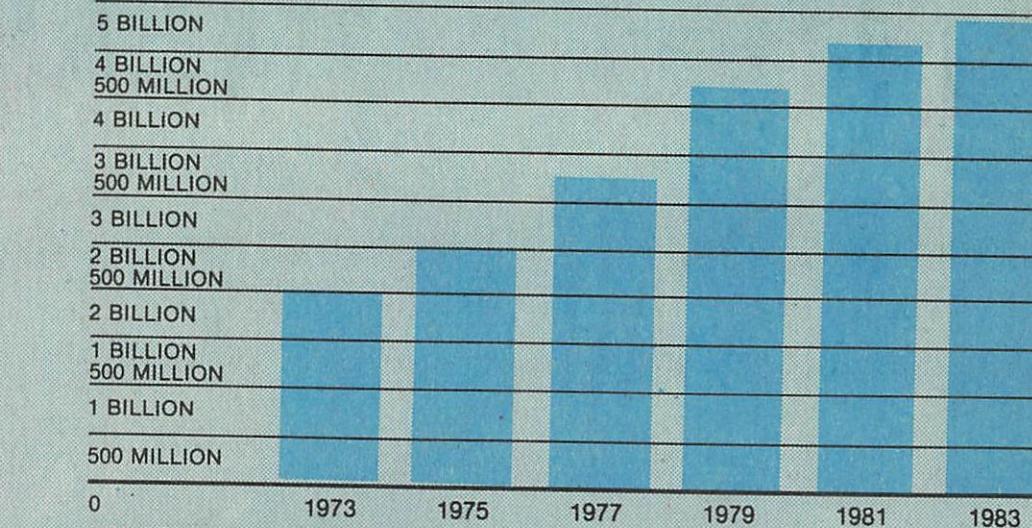
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CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET December 31, 1983 (Unaudited)

ASSETS	1983	LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	1983
Cash and Due from Banks	\$ 386,159,000	Deposits	\$3,627,092,000
Overnight Funds and Investment Securities	1,167,544,000	Purchased Funds	786,242,000
Loans and Leases (net)	3,109,074,000	Other Liabilities	187,843,000
Other Assets	280,760,000	Stockholders' Equity	342,360,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,943,537,000	TOTAL	\$4,943,537,000

First Security Corporation

Banks of the First Security System

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